(a) Investigation and Technical Plan; and

(b) Management and Cost Plan as described in 1872.705–2. Investigators shall be required to identify and discuss risk factors and issues throughout the proposal where they are relevant, and describe their approach to managing these risks.

[65 FR 82297, Dec. 28, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 61520, Oct. 1, 2002]

Subpart 1872.4—Evaluation of Proposals

1872.401 General.

(a) The evaluation process considers the aspects of each proposal by the following progressive sorting:

(1) A review resulting in a categorization is performed by using one of the methods or combination of the methods outlined in 1872.403. The purpose of this initial review is to determine the scientific and/or technological merit of the proposals in the context of the AO objectives.

(2) Those proposals which are considered to have the greatest scientific or technological merit are then reviewed in detail for the engineering, management, and cost aspects, usually by the project office at the installation responsible for the project.

(3) Final reviews are performed by the program office and the steering committee and are aimed at developing a group of investigations which represent an integrated payload or a well-balanced program of investigation which has the best possibility for meeting the AO's objectives within programmatic constraints.

(b) The importance of considering the interrelationship of the several aspects of the proposals to be reviewed in the process and the need for carefully planning their treatment should not be overlooked. An evaluation plan should be developed before issuance of the AO. It should cover the recommended staffing for any subcommittee or contractor support, review guidelines as well as the procedural flow and schedule of the evaluation. While not mandatory, such a plan should be considered for each AO. A fuller discussion of the evaluation and selection process is included in the following sections of this subpart.

1872.402 Criteria for evaluation.

(a) Each AO must indicate those criteria which the evaluators will apply in evaluating a proposal. The relative importance of each criterion must also be stated. This information will allow investigators to make informed judgments in formulating proposals that best meet the stated objectives.

(b) Following is a list of general evaluation criteria appropriate for inclusion in most AOs:

(1) The scientific, applications, and/or technological merit of the investigation.

(2) The relevance of the proposed investigation to the AO's stated scientific, applications, and/or technological objectives.

(3) The competence and experience of the investigator and any investigative team.

(4) Adequacy of whatever apparatus may be proposed with particular regard to its ability to supply the data needed for the investigation.

(5) The reputation and interest of the investigator's institution, as measured by the willingness of the institution to provide the support necessary to ensure that the investigation can be completed satisfactorily.

(6) Cost and management aspects will be considered in all selections.

(7) The proposed approach to managing risk (*e.g.*, level of technology maturity being applied or developed, technical complexity, performance specifications and tolerances, delivery schedule, etc.).

(8) Other or additional criteria may be used, but the evaluation criteria must be germane to the accomplishment of the stated objectives.

(c) Once the AO is issued, it is essential that the evaluation criteria be applied in a uniform manner. If it becomes apparent, before the date set for receipt of proposals, that the criteria or their relative importance should be changed, the AO will be amended, and all known recipients will be informed of the change and given an adequate opportunity to consider it in submission of their proposals. Evaluation criteria and/or their relative importance